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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for this moment of quiet in which we can reaffirm who we are, whose we are, and why we are here. Once again, we commit ourselves to You as sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. Our ultimate goal is to please and serve You. You have called us to be servant leaders who glorify You in seeking to know and to do Your will in the unfolding of Your vision for America.

We spread out before You the specific decisions that must be made today. We claim Your presence in all that we do this day. Guide our thinking and our speaking. May our convictions be based on undeniable truth which has been refined by You.

Bless the women and men of this Senate as they work together to find the best solutions for the problems before our Nation. Help them to draw on the supernatural resources of Your spirit. Give them divine wisdom, penetrating discernment, and indomitable courage.

When this day draws to a close, may our deepest joy be that we received Your best for us and worked together for what is best for our Nation. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish the Senate a good morning and a good day.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. On behalf of the leader, this morning the Senate will re-

sume consideration of S. 104, the Nuclear Policy Act. Under the order, following 3 minutes for debate, there will be a series of rollcall votes on or in relationship to the pending amendments. The last vote in that series will be final passage of the Nuclear Policy Act.

Following disposition of S. 104, there will be a period of morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m. The Senate will recess at 12:30 p.m. until the hour of 2:15 to allow for the weekly policy conferences to meet. When the Senate reconvenes after the luncheons, it is hoped that we will be able to begin discussions on legislation regarding the IRS's unauthorized access to tax records. Therefore, Senators can expect additional votes today following the policy luncheons.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 104 which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Murkowski amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute.

Lott (for Domenici) amendment No. 42 (to amendment No. 26) to provide that no points of order, which require 60 votes in order to adopt a motion to waive such point of order, shall be considered to be waived during the consideration of a joint resolution under section 401 of this act.

Lott (for Murkowski) amendment No. 43 (to amendment No. 42) to establish the level of annual fee for each civilian nuclear power reactor.

Bingaman amendment No. 31 (to amendment No. 26) to provide for the case in which the Yucca Mountain site proves to be unsuitable or cannot be licensed and to strike the automatic default to a site in Nevada.

Mr. BRYAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be extended to a staff member of mine, Brent Heberlee, throughout consideration of S. 104 and amendments thereto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### AMENDMENT NO. 31

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 3 minutes debate prior to the vote on the Bingaman amendment No. 31.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me very briefly address the Bingaman amendment which I feel introduces some serious loopholes in S. 104's iron-clad process toward a safe, central interim storage facility.

The loopholes will be used, as they have in the past, to keep the nuclear waste where it is at 80 sites in 41 States, near schools and residential neighborhoods—right where it is today.

The history of the nuclear waste issue has taught us some simple lessons we must heed: Any decision regarding nuclear waste that can be delayed will be delayed; any decision that can be ignored will be ignored. That is why we have spent \$6 billion over 15 years, and the Federal Government is still unable to meet its legal and moral obligation to take the waste in 1998.

I implore my colleagues: Let us not be fooled again. S. 104 is designed to make sure there are no trap doors. The chart that I explained to my colleagues yesterday attempts to make a decision, force a decision now, not leave us with a way out or a copout.

I suggest to you that the Bingaman amendment as it is structured opens a loophole. It opens the process to political pressure. It invites indecision. It

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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